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# Source says U.S. sends data to Iraq

## Both sides in war thus receiving aid

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WASHINGTON — A senior administration official confirmed yesterday that the United States has been secretly providing intelligence information to Iraq while at the same time covertly selling weapons to Iran.

But the administration denied that it was "attempting to engineer a stalemate" in the 6-year Persian Gulf war.

The official said the information consisted of damage assessments after Iraqi warplane raids on economic targets in Iran, but not satellite reconnaissance photos as has been reported.

Meanwhile, other sources in the government, saying that the administration's objective was quick resolution to the Iran-Iraq war with "no winners or losers," maintained that if the United States appeared to be helping both sides "it would have all been in pursuit of the goal of some sort of resolution . . . so that neither side would win."

"I don't think it's anybody's interest, any country in the world, to have either side win," another senior administration official said yesterday. "Our idea wasn't to prolong the war. Our outcome was that there would be no winners or losers and that the thing would get over quickly. I guess that was the objective," said the second senior official, who also asked to remain anonymous.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that the Central Intelligence Agency for two years has been secretly funneling detailed intelligence gathered from sensitive U.S. reconnaissance satellites.

According to officials quoted in the *Post* account, the Iraqis obtained information within hours after bombing raids, giving them an edge in assessing damage and preparing for the next attack.

Such information, and the damage assessments, could be useful to

the Iraqis in their bombing raids on Iranian oil terminals and power plants, said Stephen Goose, a senior research analyst with the Center for Defense Information.

Mr. Goose said rumors had been circulating in intelligence and military circles for nearly two years that the United States was passing satellite reconnaissance information to Iraq.

Publicly the United States has maintained a stance of neutrality in the war, a position reaffirmed yesterday by the White House and State Department.

"Our policy is one of trying to bring an end to that conflict as quickly as possible in such a way that there are no winners and no losers and to restore peace and stability to the region," said White House spokesman Larry M. Speakes.

Charles Redman, State Department spokesman, added that the U.S. objective "is not to have a stalemate" and that the administration's position of neutrality "has not been changed."

Mr. Speakes, as did Mr. Redman, declined to remark on the *Post* report, citing the government's rule against commenting on intelligence matters.

For weeks, however, there have been unconfirmed reports that the United States was sharing intelligence information with Iraq.

The reports included the use of Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) based in Saudi Arabia. Knowledgeable officials, however, denied the reports.

However, a senior administration official speaking at the White House — without confirming that a transfer of intelligence to Iraq had occurred — said that such an act would not be in direct conflict with the secret sale of weapons to Iran.

"One would not necessarily have been a problem for the other effort," he said, maintaining that the amount of weapons sold to the Iranians was too small to alter the outcome of the war and that "if indeed some sort of intelligence-sharing took place with the Iraqis" it would do little more than offset any "upper hand" that the Iranians may have.

While Iraq is viewed to be vastly superior to Iran in its aerial attacks, its efforts in recent months have even more precisely targeted Iranian pumping stations and power plants and have helped even the odds a bit in a war that analysts say had been tilted slightly in favor of Iran, Mr. Goose said.

Stephens Broening of The Sun's Washington Bureau contributed to this article.